

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

**CRYSTAL WATTS,
Plaintiff,**

VS.

MARTIN O'MALLEY,
Commissioner of the Social
Security Administration,

Defendant.

Case No. CIV-24-120-GLJ

OPINION AND ORDER

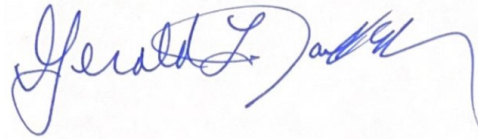
Claimant, Crystal Watts, is the prevailing party in this action under the Social Security Act. Claimant seeks an award of attorney's fees in the amount of \$5,409.60 for 21.6 hours of attorney work, pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) [Docket No. 20, Ex. 1]. The Commissioner has no objection to the fee award [Docket No. 22].

Upon review of the record herein, the Court finds that the requested amount is reasonable, and that the Commissioner should be ordered to pay it to Claimant as the prevailing party herein. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A) (“Except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, a court shall award to a prevailing party other than the United States fees and other expenses, in addition to any costs awarded pursuant to subsection (a), incurred by that party in any civil action (other than cases sounding in tort)[.]”); *see also Manning v. Astrue*, 510 F.3d 1246, 1251 (10th Cir. 2007) (“The EAJA therefore permits

attorney's fees reimbursement to financially eligible prevailing parties, who make a proper application, and not to their attorneys.'").

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion for Award of Attorney Fees Pursuant to the *Equal Access to Justice Act* [Docket No. 20] is hereby granted and that the Government is therefore ordered to pay the above-referenced amount to Claimant as the prevailing party herein. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Claimant's attorney is subsequently awarded any fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 406(b)(1), said attorney shall refund the smaller amount of such fees to Claimant pursuant to *Weakley v. Bowen*, 803 F.2d 575, 580 (10th Cir. 1986).

DATED this 22nd day of October, 2024.



GERALD L. JACKSON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE